

Canberra, A.C.T.

August 20, 1957

Lynn
Dear Bob:

Esther and I are beginning to settle down well enough to catch up on our correspondence. We have been having a most interesting time here, meeting hordes of Australian geneticists (most of them not microbial) of whom Otto Frankel seems to be the leading figure (as head of plant industry here at CSIRO). We had a most informative symposium yesterday on recombination in various viruses, including influenza (Burnet, this work is already well known); vaccinia (Penner) and — as Alex would be interested to hear — tomato spotted wilt (RJ Best, from Adelaide). I have some reservations about that last story, but it is at the least provocative. I am sending a set of abstracts of the local meeting by surface mail: you and Jim and Chap' especially might be interested in various of them.

While I Sydney, I made a few inquiries about the pigeons, especially at the Taronga zoo. They could give little direct help, as none of the species were stocked, but referred me to some dealers in Sydney and in Brisbane (resp. F. Fahey, Windsor Rd., Northmead, NSW; and N Hohnke, 7 Colville Street Highgate Hill ~~S. 11~~ S. 11, Brisbane, Q.); I'll have to write to Fahey, but may get to talk to Hohnke when we visit Brisbane next week.

I gather the birds you want are not bred anywhere and are available only as caught. On that basis, a price of £8 per pair does not seem so unreasonable. This is about \$9 each, and in the range of price you seemed to consider reasonable. The air-freight across the Pacific is a formidable item (about \$2 per lb. for general cargo, and probably more for a specialty item like live birds). Do let me know how far you would want the matter pursued. There will be the matter of export permits, but Professor Murray (Zoology-Sydney) thinks these could be arranged for a valid scientific purpose. I assume you want breeding pairs. Anyhow.

I will get whatever information is readily available that might help you assess the situation.

With best regards,

Yours,

JL

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